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Rep. George Bush

(in photo)

Nixon Picks Bush as U.N. Ambassador

Exclusive to The Times from
the Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Nixon announced Friday that he would nominate Rep. George Bush (R-Tex.), defeated candidate for the senate, to be ambassador to the United Nations.

The President was full of praise for Ambassador Charles W. Yost, who, according to some reports, had not been informed when word leaked last month that a change would take place.

The President said, however, that early last summer Yost informed him he would like to retire at the end of the present U.N. General Assembly meeting.

Retired Earlier

A former career ambassador, Yost retired from the foreign service in 1966 and was persuaded by Mr. Nixon early in 1969 to take the U.N. post. He is a Democrat.

Bush, 46, son of the late Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.), is known as a moderate Republican and one of the younger party members the President had high political hopes for.

Mr. Nixon vigorously supported Bush's unsuccessful campaign for the Senate this fall. One pre-election report said that if Bush won the President might consider him as a possible replacement for Vice President Agnew in 1972.

'Enormous Interest'

In making the announcement, the President said that Bush had had "years of experience" as a businessman and politician and had an "enormous interest" in the United Nations.

In the House, Bush has been a member of the important Ways and Means Committee. He has had little foreign experience except as a businessman and service in the Pacific as a Navy pilot in World War II.

He is a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., and Yale University.

Bush said he regarded his new assignment as an "awesome responsibility" and wondered how he could "absorb enough" from Yost to do the job.

'Very Lucky Guy'

He said, however, he regarded himself as "a very lucky guy" to have a chance to work with the President on this "important quest for peace in the world."

Yost said that he had appreciated the opportunity to serve at the United Nations.

The President said the reason "several names have come up" in speculation about Yost's successor was that "we have found it difficult to find a man we thought could fill" his shoes.

Daniel P. Moynihan, another Democrat and counsellor to the President, was first reported to be in line for the ambassadorship, but he turned it down to return to his professorship at Harvard.

In a letter to Yost, the President said, "Your entire career has exemplified the best American traditions of public service. At the United Nations you have been the embodiment of the oldest American tradition, that of a decent respect for the opinions of mankind."